

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE IN URBAN
AMERICA: THE ROLE OF PRINT MEDIA

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ABSTRACT

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THE DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE IN URBAN AMERICA: THE ROLE OF
PRINT MEDIA.

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This thesis gives a descriptive analysis of how the drug cocaine is distributed to some urban cities throughout the United States.

The data contained in this study presents a triangulation method to show how cocaine is transported to America and filtered to urban communities. The material was collected by using secondary sources--books, journals, information broadcasted through print media (i.e., magazines and newspapers), and personal testimonies from Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Customs, and Federal Bureau of Investigation officials were obtained. The existent literature indicates that print media has a significant role in transferring information about cocaine trafficking to American citizens.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Illegal drugs have become an enormous problem for the United States in the 1980s, especially the sophisticated drug labelled "cocaine" (Johnson, 1987). Drug trafficking experts emphasize that cocaine abuse has reached epidemic proportions in this country (Morganthau, 1986). Millions of dollars have been spent to combat the cocaine problem, but some feel that not enough is being spent to curb what is viewed as America's "billion dollar habit." Apart from expenditures, there are two important issues that have not received considerable attention. (1) Why has cocaine consumption become a favorite pastime for a lot of Americans? and, (2) Who are the individuals responsible for the influx of drugs to the United States? The answers to these questions will promote our understanding of cocaine's affect on American society.

The present study attempts to point out what has contributed to the widespread use of cocaine by American consumers, and highlights the attractiveness of the drug to inner-city as well as suburban communities.

Statement of the Problem

Drug abuse is the major problem in many American cities (Johnson, 1987). The existence of drugs in the United States has damaged the moral fiber of some cities. The drug cocaine has surfaced as a tremendous problem for American society and is commonplace throughout urban communities (especially inner-city areas). Cocaine abuse has caused a lot of people to commit illegal acts to support their terrible drug habits. Therefore, it is necessary to examine some of the reasons why adults and youth fall prey to the harmful effects of cocaine. The study attempts to describe how cocaine is transported to the U.S. by drug traffickers who target inner-city areas in order to gain huge profits from drug sales.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to show the step-by-step process of how cocaine is channeled into the U.S. by drug smugglers. The data indicate who is directly responsible for bringing drugs to low income neighborhoods, and how inner-city residents become involved in the drug distribution process. This information is vital because one can gain insight into the individuals who make up a

cocaine organization. In addition, the literature provides a comprehensive understanding of how drugs such as cocaine are grown and developed in foreign countries and transported for consumption to Americans.

Sources of Data

The data used in this study were obtained from magazine and newspaper reports of cocaine trafficking inside and outside the United States. Also, pertinent criminological materials written by social scientists and expert opinions from federal law enforcement officers were utilized. The magazine and newspaper reports are included because they are secondary sources that cover current information collected by the researcher from 1983-1987.

Limitations of the Study

The data presented in this study relies heavily on information collected from the print media, magazine and newspaper sources. In order to keep the material updated and comprehensive, these sources were utilized more frequently than existent studies on cocaine trafficking. Furthermore, the study is structured and analyzed from a descriptive rather than a theoretical position. The

information presented primarily focuses on large cities such as Los Angeles, New York, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta. These cities are major urban areas that represent a cross section of geographical parts of the country plagued with cocaine trafficking. Other cities in the U.S. where drug trafficking is prevalent are not covered.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis has been organized into five chapters. Chapter One includes the Introduction, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Sources of Data, Limitations of the Study, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two consists of the Review of the Literature. Chapter Three discusses the Exportation of Illegal Drugs to the United States. Chapter Four highlights the Research Interviews and Testimonies. Chapter Five, the final chapter, presents the Summary and Conclusion. In addition, a Bibliography is provided at the end of the thesis.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The literature reviewed in this chapter examines several views of the cocaine trafficking process in American society. The present study utilizes data that were collected about countries that are major suppliers of cocaine to the United States. The data concentrate on four major urban cities in the United States where the cocaine trade is dominant.

In 1987, illegal drugs are commonplace in the United States. Drugs can be found in schools, neighborhoods (Wheeler, 1986), and businesses (Thornton, 1987). Americans have become fascinated with drugs that are considered "chic and glamorous." For example, cocaine has surfaced as one of America's most favorite drugs because it is viewed as fashionable and powerful. A group of individuals who hail from foreign lands are taking advantage of American citizens' desire for cocaine. They are seizing the opportunity to become wealthy by exporting cocaine to the United States (Smolowe, 1987). What is cocaine? One must discuss what makes the drug so attractive to Americans

before examining the role of foreign drug traffickers in the cocaine trade.

Most Americans are unaware that cocaine is derived from a special coca leaf that appears both worthless and harmless. Joseph Kennedy (1985) claims that coca is a physical and spiritual elixir (cure all substance) for Andean Indians, and the cultivation of the leaf in South America has been a significant political factor for the past 5,000 years. Howard Abadinsky (1985) maintains that cocaine is found in large quantities only in two species of coca shrub. One species grows in the Andes of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, and the other is found in mountainous regions of Colombia along the northern coast of Peru. South American countries such as Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia have played a major role in supplying drugs to the United States. Because cocaine is so popular outside of these countries, many South Americans are becoming gifted in drug exportation.

Abadinsky (1985) claims that in Bolivia, the major supplier of the U.S. market, coca is grown legally and sold openly at the street market. The coca is diverted for the illegal trade with little interference from law enforcement authorities. Pico Iyer (1985) points out that since 1977,

coca production has tripled in Bolivia. Peru is another South American country where coca is cultivated in obscure jungle areas without government control. For example, the U.S. government's cocaine eradication program in Tingo Maria, a valley between the Andes and the Peruvian jungles, had to be suspended in 1984 because of raids by guerillas of the Shining Path, a communist group favoring a Chinese-style political system. The guerillas took advantage of antigovernment attitudes among the area's coca growers (Abadinsky, 1985).

Harry Anderson (1985) emphasizes that Mexico has also become a major stop on the Latin American cocaine trail. Until the mid-1970s, Mexico was the largest supplier of American heroin, and it exported huge quantities of marijuana as well. But in 1974, the government launched an extensive eradication program, spraying growing areas with herbicides. By 1978, the Mexican share of the U.S. heroin market had dropped 80 percent to just 30 percent, and Mexican traffickers turned to cocaine to fill the void. Now as much as a third of all U.S. cocaine is smuggled from south of the border. Anderson states that government records indicate that nearly 2,600 pounds of powder have been seized in Mexico since 1982.

Brazilians too have been cultivating the coca leaf, in the form of an adaptable strain of plant known as epadu. Previously, narcotics experts had been confident that coca could be grown only on open mountain slopes; however, epadu thrives in the jungle (Iyer, 1985). In recent years, drug refineries have surfaced in Panama, Venezuela, and Argentina; however, Peru and Bolivia have grown 90 percent of the world's coca and converted the leaves locally into raw coca paste. Colombians have taken care of 80 percent of the rest of the business, refining the paste into cocaine (see Box 1-1) then smuggling it into the United States (Iyer, 1985).

Clearly, the 1980s have brought about a change in America's appetite for cocaine. More Americans have been attracted to the drug and are consuming it at a torrid pace. As a result, drug exportation is at its apex in today's society and many foreigners are willing to undertake dangerous missions in order to feed America's hunger for illegal drugs (Smolowe, 1987). Foreigners are quite aware that selling drugs in the United States can be a lucrative business. Therefore, the desire to grow and produce illegal substances is justified by their acquisition of drug proceeds.

BOX 1-1 ORIGIN OF COCAINE

The coca plant is part of the cultural fabric of the northern Andes. The most common of the strains of coca is the Lamarck, a shrub that grows in the eastern foothills of the Andes. It is a hardy, deep-rooted perennial that can be harvested a mere six months after planting and then as often as three times a year. It can also survive for up to 30 years, growing stronger with age.

Arriving at the village processing facilities in the 50-kilo bales, the harvested leaves are laid out in the sun to dry. They are then soaked in a solution of water and kerosene, which releases the cocaine contained in the leaves. Peasants stomp on the soaking mixture for several hours to turn it into coca paste, which is then mixed with sulfuric acid, lime, potassium permanganate and more kerosene. The cream-colored substance that is left after the liquid is squeezed out is a coca base, the raw material that is sent to refineries to be turned into cocaine. This transformation is accomplished by combining the paste with ether and acetone to remove impurities, and filtering the mixture through tightly woven cloth.

When the substance dries completely, it becomes concentrated cocaine hydrochloride, so potent that consumption could lead to seizures or death. The pure cocaine is cut with substances such as sugar, talcum powder or flour to produce the high priced "snow" sold on the street (Time, February, 25, 1986).

CHAPTER 3

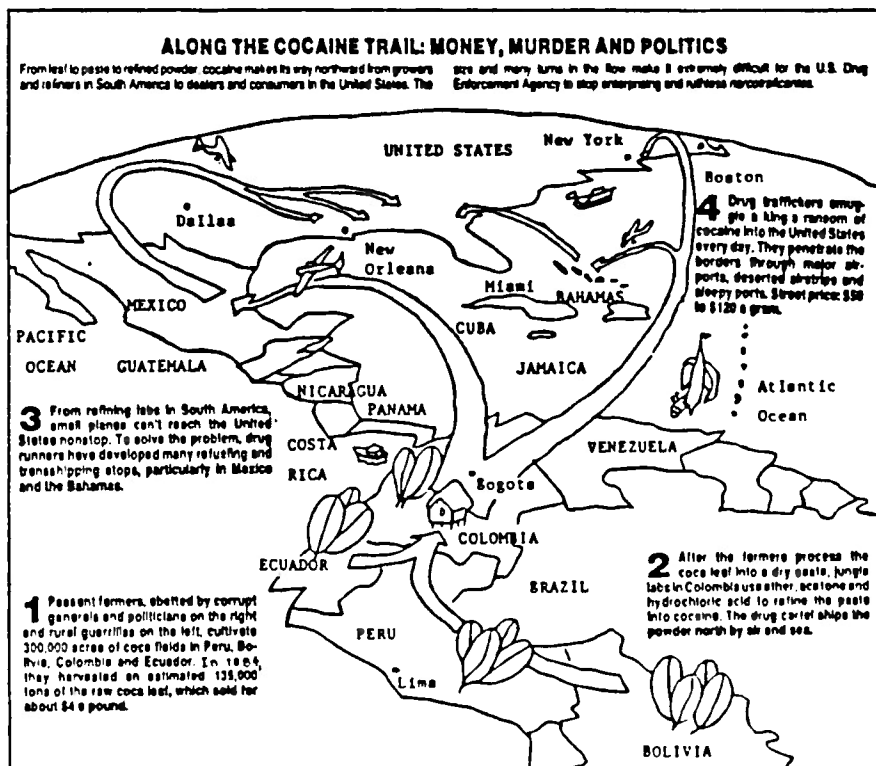
EXPORTATION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS TO THE U.S.

A. The Cocaine Trail

Several South American countries have been targeting illegal drugs to the United States in recent years (see Figures 1 and 2). Drug exporters have been using sophisticated equipment and machinery to transport drugs. For example, Time Magazine (January 29, 1979) reports that air transportation is one way drugs such as marijuana makes its way north. Colombia has 1,300 miles of jagged coastline, from which it is easy to load 20 tons or more of grass aboard freighters, trawlers or large (often stolen) yachts. These mother ships are monitored by the U.S. Coast Guard at a series of "choke points" as they work their way north through the Caribbean. American authorities have little power as long as the drug ships hover outside the 12-mile limit of U.S. territorial waters.

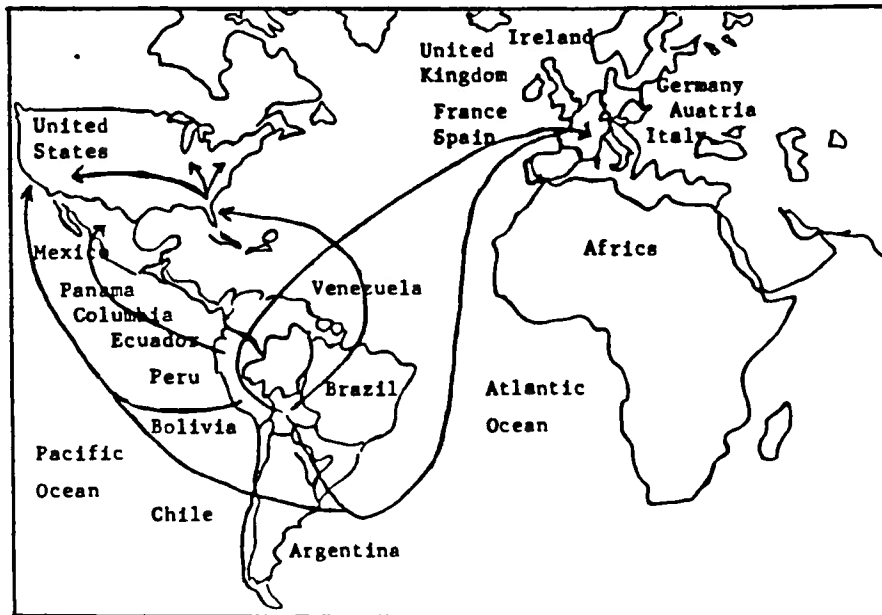
Drug exporters have used many unique approaches to smuggle drugs into the United States. Some have hidden drugs in aircraft engines, duffle bags, and boat compartments. Cocaine is also carried on mother ships and

FIGURE 1



Source: Harry Anderson, *Time* Magazine, February 25, 1985, Figure 1, p. 17.

FIGURE 2
MAJOR COCAINE-SMUGGLING ROUTES (AIR, LAND, SEA)



Source: Howard Abadinsky, *Organized Crime*. Chicago, Illinois: Nelson Hall, 1985, Figure 12.4. p.208.

lumbering old planes, but since it is so much more compact than marijuana, and worth almost six times its weight in gold, there are simpler methods of shipment (Time, January 29, 1979). A commercial air traveler flying from Bogota', Colombia can make \$10,000 tax free carrying a pound about the size of a paperback book. Many passengers carry white powder on their bodies, inside candy bars or toothpaste tubes, under slightly askew wigs, sewn into leather saddles (Time, January 29, 1979).

Kurt Anderson (1983) notes that an enormous amount of smugglers practice a process known as "body packing." They swallow the cocaine-filled rubber packets, usually made of fingers snipped from surgical gloves. The carriers known as "mules" gulp down the packets in Colombia with the intention of excreting them in the U.S. Anderson observes that this process is dangerous to the mule because a packet may rupture, causing massive overdose. In 1982, 52 mules were arrested at Kennedy International Airport in New York. They were x-rayed and put in a hospital with a bedside commode and two customs guards. A mule commonly ingests upwards of a pound of coke inside 100 packets or more.

There is no doubt that smuggling drugs into the United States can be a money making venture. Airplane pilots and

shipowners are a few of the persons transporting cocaine from countries such as Colombia. The presence of U.S. officials in international waters and skyways has not deterred individuals who make their living transporting drugs into America illegally.

B. Colombian Drug Organizations

As indicated earlier in the paper, Colombia is a country that is rich in cocaine refineries and factories. Since the late 1970s, Colombia has surpassed Mexico as America's number one supplier of cocaine. During the 1970s, native Colombians recognized that they occupied lands that were heavy in cocaine; therefore, they began capitalizing on home grown products such as cocaine. In essence, Colombians structured groups which were designed to reap benefits from illegal drugs (Smolowe, 1987). Throughout the 1980s, Colombian drug smugglers have consistently targeted The United States for cocaine distribution. Mainly because they realize that the demand for cocaine is tremendous in America.

Howard Abadinsky (1985) maintains that in Colombia, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, there are eight major "Cocaine Families" whose operations

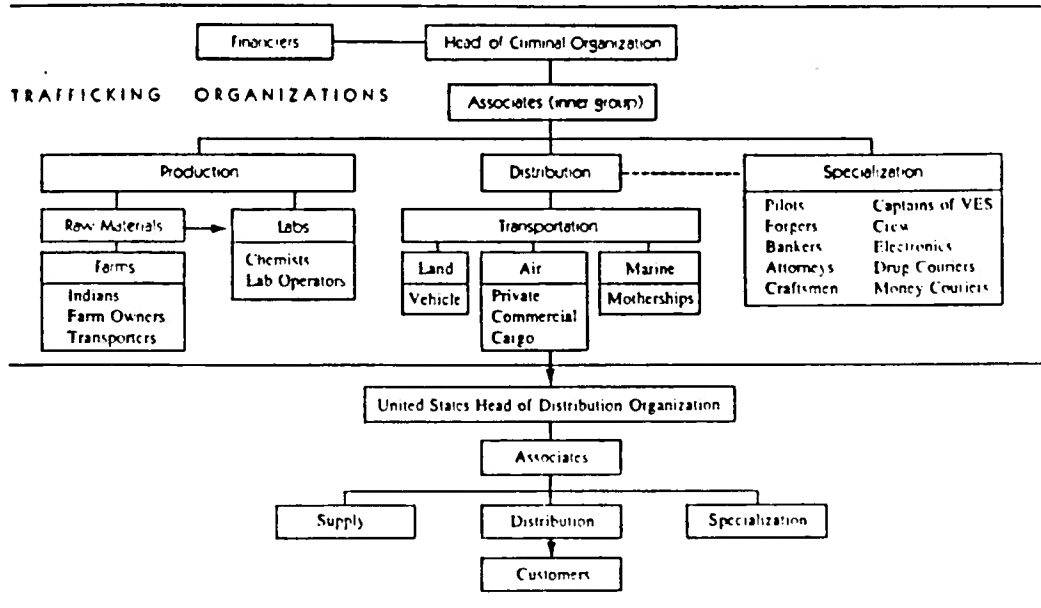
resemble a medium-sized corporation. The head of the family is surrounded by an inner group, often relatives by blood or marriage, who protect and direct the organization's Colombian operations (see Figure 3). Abadinsky claims that at the American end are distribution organizations usually headed by Colombians, but sometimes a Cuban or American will fill this spot. The American organization is responsible for the distribution of drugs. Colombian and American organizations are not as disciplined as Italian-American organized crime units.

Melinda Beck (1985) notes that an alarming trend in the statewide cocaine war is the partnership of Colombians and older organized crime families. Italian chieftains once content to sell heroin to black and Puerto Rican ghetto residents observed Colombians making a ton of money selling cocaine to citizens and decided to marry up. Beck claims that the Mafia provided Colombians with distribution networks--and more sophisticated money-laundering schemes, such as real estate investments, limited partnerships and blind trusts in foreign banks safe from confiscation.

In addition, Abadinsky points out that in Colombian organizations, there is a great deal of turnover personnel,

FIGURE 3

Typical Colombian Cocaine Organization



Source: Howard Abadinsky, *Organized Crime*. Chicago, Illinois: Nelson Hall, 1985, Figure 12.5, p.209.

with persons entering, leaving, and switching organizations. Abadinsky notes that cocaine buyers may also avoid the American-based broker by travelling to Colombia. This lack of discipline has produced a great deal of violence in South Florida and New York in the 1980s. Michael T. Green (1986) observes that for a lot of Colombians, organized crime involvement provides them access to a close knit organization which can help them obtain their goals of becoming wealthy and powerful in the United States.

Kurt Anderson (1983) adds that there are over 100,000 Colombians living in the United States who earn major dollars from drugs. Anderson claims that according to DEA officials, there are ten principle Colombian cocaine rings with members in Bogota, Colombia, Miami, and the middle-class New York borough of Queens. Each ring takes in at least \$50 million a year.

C. Distribution of Drugs in the Inner City

Drug consumption has reached epidemic proportions in some urban communities in the United States (Wheeler, 1986). The abundance of drugs in these areas has disturbed many communities and caused citizens to live a life of fear and discontent (Wheeler, 1986). Washington, D.C.

(Wheeler, 1986), New York City (Lamar, 1986), Atlanta (Copeland, 1985), and Los Angeles (Cummings, 1984) are large metropolitan areas plagued by drug trafficking. Drug trafficking is not restricted to a particular geographical location, but is prevalent in all areas of the country. Despite the existence of law enforcement officials in some cities, drugs such as cocaine find its way into inner-city neighborhoods with frequency and no fanfare. Ruth Cavan (1981) emphasizes that there is a network of dealers and pushers who can and will supply virtually any kind of illicit narcotic at handsome profits. Cavan notes that that there are strong incentives urging drug pushers to involve young people in drug use, and the avant-garde spirit of youth today makes the drug user role a common one in America.

It is difficult to pinpoint an exact description of how drug rings operate in the inner city; but one can examine how they have flourished in some urban areas. Many cities are often dominated by neighborhoods that have poor housing and unemployed residents; therefore, drug traffickers often solicit the services of downtrodden or poor individuals to distribute their goods. Particularly those who are concerned about bettering their lives in a

quick way (Copeland, 1985). One reason some individuals get involved with drugs is because drug dealing can be a lucrative business (see Box 1-2 for the value of cocaine). However, we will examine those who decide to purposely target drugs to American urban cities before discussing the character traits of inner-city drug dealers.

In 1985, Cuban cocaine kingpin Carlos Cruz was convicted in Atlanta, Georgia for distributing cocaine that moved from Miami to Atlanta throughout the south and midwest. Cruz ran a ring which included members of his family (see Figure 4) and others who mainly distributed cocaine to various outlets (The Atlanta Journal, March 17, 1985). Persons who lead cocaine rings in America are often foreigners who allow others to sell and distribute drugs while they reap most of the financial benefits (Abadinsky, 1985). In other words, they are indirectly involved in the actual distribution of the drug in the inner city, but are directly involved in the acquisition of the drug money.

Why do these smugglers (Colombians, Cubans, etc.) target inner-city communities? Is it because consumer demand for drugs is higher in these areas? In many instances, drugs smugglers target a particular segment of

BOX 1-2 THE VALUE OF COCAINE--1986 ESTIMATIONS

1 Gram of Cocaine= 1 Teaspoon= \$100 to \$150

150 lbs of Coca Leaves= 1 lb of Cocaine Base=
\$2,000 or more

1 Ounce of Coke= \$1,000 to \$2,000

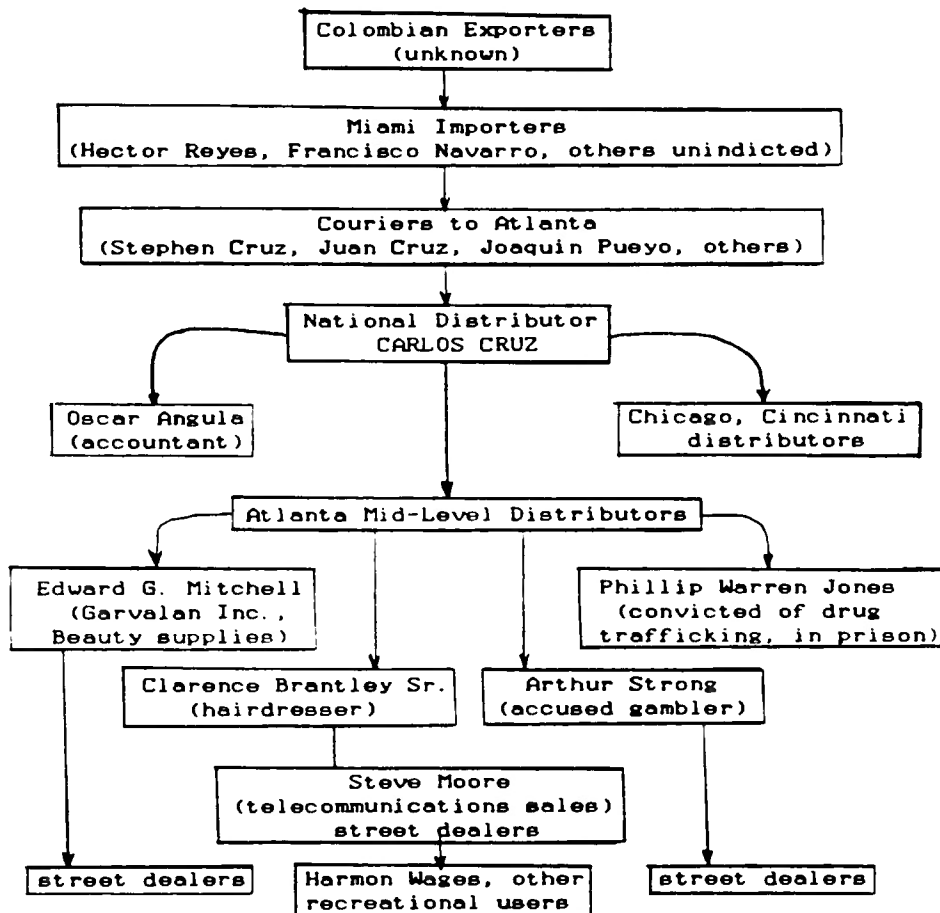
300 Kilos of Coca Leaves= 3 Kilos of Paste=
1 Kilo of Cocaine

1 Kilo of Coke= \$23,00 to \$35,000

1,000 Kilos= \$600 million on the Street

FIGURE 4

THE CRUZ CONNECTIONS



* Based on allegations contained in federal indictments and information from federal law enforcement authorities.

Source: Atlanta Journal, "Court Fillings Offer Vivid Picture of Cocaine Ring." March 17, 1985, Figure 1, p.16 A.

society because they feel that the community is susceptible, vulnerable, and demands illegal drugs. William von RAAB (1985) indicates that in today's society, there is a large demand for narcotics and drug smugglers have been very opportunistic in turning this demand into big profits.

D. Cocaine Dealers/Hustlers

The American free enterprise system stresses that an entrepreneur has the right to market and sell a product in America in order to make a profit (Ferguson, 1975). However, one must comply with the laws that prohibit the sale of illegal goods. Oftentimes businesses undertake marketing schemes to attract consumers to their goods (Ferguson, 1975). In the 1980s, a new breed of entrepreneur has surfaced in America and is armed with an alluring and potent drug that is mesmerizing the American public. He is a classic salesman who is widespread throughout society and is known as the "cocaine dealer." The dealer targets the young and old, rich and poor, and anyone who he feels is a potential buyer or consumer. This distributor sells his goods with excitement and energy and is frequently considered a "hustler."

Benjamin Carmichael (1979) maintains that the term hustler conjures up images of persons who manipulate other people's impression of reality. One who skillfully appraises and adjusts odds on events of chance, or who provides scarce or illicit goods and services to paying customers. Carmichael claims that in a sense, hustlers are "con men." Box 1-3 shows how hustling is practiced by inner-city drug dealers in Atlanta, Georgia. This is a typical example of how the inner city can be infested with illegal drugs to the point where it is detrimental to the youth and residents of the community. However, Atlanta is a city where drug traffickers target middle-class consumers as well. For example, Carlos Cruz's drug ring mainly distributed cocaine to Atlanta's black middle class before he was imprisoned in 1985 (The Atlanta Journal, March 17, 1985).

Furthermore, Carmichael adds the hustling ethic incorporates three major tenets: (1) a "situational ethic" of exploiting others, including one's personal acquaintances; (2) an extreme contempt of work, particularly manual labor and low paying jobs, and; (3) for most non-white hustlers, an obsessive compulsion to become wealthy and acquire visible evidence of wealth, such as expensive automobiles.

BOX 1-3 ATLANTA'S BANKHEAD COURTS

It's minutes before midnight at Bankhead Courts, one of Atlanta's predominantly black housing projects. Two white teenagers in a bright red sports car with Clayton County license plates cruise to a stop. The blond passenger extends a \$5 bill through the window as three men who had been standing on the sidewalk converge on the car. One of them exchanges a few words with the passenger, takes the bill and places a small yellow packet in the boy's outstretched hand. The car speeds away.

Police say that customers for this drive-through dope business are most often affluent young suburbanites. Although they are inside Interstate 285, most of the people who frequent the locales in the city--as many as 65% are from the suburbs. Dealers are usually poor blacks aged 15 to 25 who grab at the opportunity to make a quick dollar, and who are quickly replaced when they are arrested. They call the Bankhead Courts where drug-dealing has become a problem, a "stop-n-cop" spot, one of at least 16 in the city where people can go to buy small amounts of marijuana or cocaine as easily as they might buy a hamburger at a drive-through window (Larry Copeland, 1985).

fashionable clothes, lavishly furnished apartments and jewelry.

Paul Goldstein (1981) gives a vivid picture of the transactions of drug dealers in the following:

DEALERS

While there are individual variations, a rule of thumb regarding payments to street dealers is that for every \$100 of heroin sold, the street dealer keeps \$40 and returns \$60 to "the man" (i.e., the big dealer). For every \$100 of cocaine that is sold, the street dealer keeps \$25 and returns \$75 to "the man."

HOLDERS

Some street dealers will employ other persons physically to hold drugs that are being sold. They minimize their culpability in case of arrest. In this way, the dealer could never be caught on the streets with drugs in his possession.

COP MAN

There are many reasons why a drug user will employ another individual to purchase drugs for him. Some persons (females and especially white people) may be afraid that if they go to buy drugs they will be "ripped off" (either of their money on the way to cop, or of their drugs on the way home). Drug purchasers (especially out-of-towners) frequently do not know which dealers have quality drugs, or which can be trusted, and therefore rely on the "cop man's" expertise.

TOUTS

"Touts" are persons who spread the word on the street that a specific dealer's drugs are of high quality. They fulfill an advertising function. They are usually given drugs by dealers as payment.

Box 1-4 describes the problems that Washington, D.C. is facing with cocaine dealers. However, many youth in Washington have fallen prey to the deadly drug PCP (Phencyclidine). PCP is a popular social drug for some Washington youth--mainly because it is one of the cheapest in the D.C. market. The drug is often referred to as "loveboat" on the streets, and its use is a favorite pastime for Washington teenagers (Wheeler, 1986). This drug is endangering the lives of many D.C. youth by causing them to have delusions and hallucinate constantly. There are a lot of youth receiving treatment for PCP abuse in drug clinics and mental hospitals in Washington (Wheeler, 1986). In essence, the drug represents trouble for these youth because its appeal has caused a lot of them to develop psychological problems.

Lyle Harris (1985) notes that in 1985, federal law enforcement officials busted a multimillion-dollar PCP ring in the Washington, D.C. area which manufactured and sold the hallucinogen PCP. Harris observes that the PCP was shipped by rail, plane, and motor vehicles to distributors in Chicago and Texas before it was sent back to the Washington area and packaged for street sale.

BOX 1-4 SUPER SNITCH

It was called "Operation Beat It" and it was designed to clean out the notorious open-air cocaine market around Hanover Place N.W. Police began flooding into the area several weeks ago, and soon the tiny block near the intersection of New York Avenue and North Capital Street, with its abandoned buildings and vacant lots, was like the main drag of ghost town. That's what it looked like to a casual observer, at least. But Marcus, a man who daily makes the rounds of Washington's streets drug trade, was able to point out the displaced cocaine dealers--who hadn't left at all. They were hanging out in mom-and-pop grocery stores barely a block away, carrying on business as usual.

Neither police nor dealer, Marcus is a self-styled independent agent who makes his living playing the role of drug buyer for undercover police operations. It is a low paying but satisfying job for the 32-year old native Washingtonian, who moves with ease through well known drug markets of Washington's inner city and walks without fear through dark back alleys. Marcus is a product of the very community that he now sees as dying under the seige of street drugs. He seems to sense that his luck and skills as a "super snitch" may soon run out. But he has a near obsession with ridding his childhood neighborhood and a dozen other established drug markets in Washington of the illegal drug trade and zombie-like drug users who make the business flourish (The Washington Post, July 29, 1984: B1).

E. Cocaine Consumers

Some individuals consume drugs for different reasons than others, but the idea concerning cocaine is that it is an addictive drug that feeds the human ego (Johnson, 1987). What makes the drug so enticing? Is it because cocaine is perceived as being cozy and clean? Regardless of what encourages some to indulge in drugs, cocaine consumption has increased dramatically in the United States. Lawyers (Putka, 1983), businessmen (Thornton, 1977), and athletes (Demott, 1987) have succumbed to this powerful drug. With street names such as snow, flake, coke, girl, Bernice, and the rich man's drug, cocaine has been labelled the social drug of the 1980s. Whereas marijuana was viewed as the popular drug of the 1960s, cocaine has become a phenomenon in American culture.

Joseph Kennedy (1985) claims that moviegoers in the 1970s were made aware of the cocaine boom by the drug's appearance in a number of celebrated films. Kennedy maintains that after thirty years of invincibility (as far as motion pictures were concerned), cocaine use suddenly became a component in many screenplays and was a device to communicate all sorts of messages. In the film Willie

Dynamite, as in *Night of the Following Day*, cocaine was used by wrongdoers for evil purposes; in *Gordon's War*, cocaine abuse triggered a violent vigilante action.

Undoubtedly, cocaine can be found in inner-city neighborhoods across the United States, but it is prevalent in so-called respectable communities as well. Gary Putka (1983) adds that cocaine first became the drug of choice in the financial community in the middle to late 1970s. Some users believe its use was declining--or was less visible--until the 1982-1983 bull market. With volume up and the market climbing, there has been a lot more money along with increased stress and tension and thousands of new, young brokers and dealers to spend these finances. Putka claims that some brokers, dealers, traders, lawyers, and executives have been using the drug on Wall Street and are making costly mistakes in business judgement. Most of them are young males with high pressure jobs and high incomes to match, but sometimes they end up wrecking promising careers. Sometimes they end up dead. In 1987, Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested 16 individuals who worked for securities firms in the Wall Street financial district for possession and distribution of cocaine. These individuals were described as a ring of young stockbrokers

who traded stocks, customer lists, and tips for cocaine (Thorton, 1987). Putka (1983) chronicles the problem of a Wall Street executive in the following:

Mike is 28, a bond trader with a major Wall Street firm, and makes more than \$100,000 in a good year. He likes his job. He likes cocaine too, off the job and sometimes on it.

He claims he isn't addicted to the costly white powder (at least \$100 a gram). He enjoys the sense of omnipotence it gives him. Mike buys most of his own, but occasionally is given a gram or two by brokers who want to keep his friendship--and business.

"Sometimes say when I've just made the company \$20,000, I tell myself: You deserve a treat today," Mike says. "It makes me feel mildly indestructible and gives me a shot of energy, sort of like a bull snorting and hoofing the ground ready to attack a matador."

Clearly, cocaine abuse is commonplace on Wall Street in New York as well as in the inner cities of the United States. Melinda Beck (1985) emphasizes that 25 million Americans have tried cocaine and five to ten million use it at least once a month. The typical user of cocaine (not the derivative "crack") is a 30-year old white male earning \$25,000 a year. Undoubtedly, the inner city has its share of drug problems, but suburban communities are also plagued by deadly drugs. Kurt Anderson (1983) indicates how cocaine affected a suburbanite in the following:

In the quintessential suburban San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, David 21, was not reduced to stealing from his family to support his five-gram \$750-a-week cocaine habit. Instead, during six months of 1982, he embezzled \$20,000 from a camera store where he worked. His thefts were discovered shortly after his illegal acts, but the police were not called and David's father repaid the \$20,000.

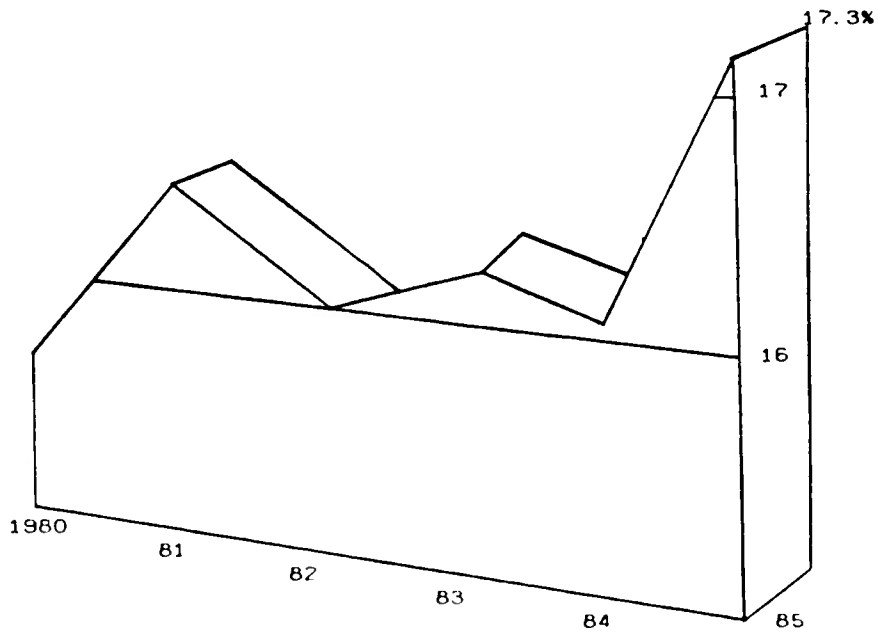
Cocaine is also affecting the lives of a lot of young people in the United States. For instance, a survey conducted by the Institute of Social Research at the University of Michigan (1985) shows that the percentage of high school seniors who have tried cocaine nearly doubled in the past ten years (see Figure 5), from 9 percent to 17.3 percent (Morganthau, 1986).

F. Criminal Activities of Consumers

When cocaine burst onto the American scene in the 1970s, the drug had a profound affect on the lives of many citizens (Kennedy, 1985). Since the 1970s, the popularity of cocaine has not diminished, but risen to unforeseen expectations. Meanwhile, the need for cocaine has caused some individuals to engage in illegal activities. The effect of this drug has transferred ordinary citizens into common criminals, who will do almost anything to support their habits.

FIGURE 5

COCAINE USAGE-HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS IN PERCENT



Note: Derived from the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research Study, 1986.

Source: Newsweek Magazine, March 17, 1986, Figure 1, p. 63.

With the abundance of drugs circulating throughout society, Americans have resorted to crime to support their desire for drugs. David Herbert (1984) asserts that unlawful drug transactions often ultimately involve sales to addicts. These addicts, in order to support their habit, commit a wide variety of crimes to raise necessary funds for drug transactions. Herbert claims that such activities are the indirect result of drug trafficking and must, at least in part, be attributed to it along with several other related crimes.

In the late 1880s, Sigmund Freud advocated the use of cocaine as a substance to calm the abnormal and unusual behavior of individuals. Also, the beverage Coca-Cola originated with cocaine in 1895, but it was removed from the soft drink in the early 1900s (Abadinsky, 1985). Cocaine was popularized by Freud and the Coca-Cola Company in the 1800s; therefore, several Americans were enthused about the drug during that period. In the 1980s, however, the use of cocaine is a violation of the law which can lead to imprisonment or fine (Feinberg, 1985). Despite the existence of laws that prohibit the sale or use of cocaine, the drug has never enjoyed the popularity that it is presently enjoying. Mainly because an abundance of

Americans and foreigners are willing to engage in cocaine trafficking if the drug can make them powerful and lucrative.

In 1986, a new and powerful form of cocaine known as "crack or rock" surfaced as a terrible problem for American society (Demott, 1986). Crack has penetrated the inner city and the suburbs with danger and swiftness. The drug became well known on the streets of New York in 1984 and has reached epidemic levels in New York and Los Angeles. Morgenthau (1986) points out that dealers make crack by mixing cocaine with baking soda and water, creating a paste that is usually at least 75 percent cocaine. The paste hardens and is cut into chips that resemble soap or whitish gravel. Morgenthau claims that a small piece, sometimes called "a quarter rock," produces a 20 to 30 minute high and is usually smoked in water pipes. Crack has been stamped the most addicted form of cocaine because it leaves its victims craving for more after the initial high from the drug has vanished.

Jacob Lamar (1986) notes that from January through April of 1986, New York City police seizures of marijuana and heroin fell off 92 and 88 percent respectively, but cocaine seizures rose 41 percent. Lamar adds that "crack"

busts constituted 55 percent of all cocaine arrests in New York. In Los Angeles, where the drug was introduced around 1981, more than two-thirds of the 2,500 coke arrests in 1986 involved crack. Los Angeles is a city that is experiencing tremendous problems with narcotics. For instance, south central Los Angeles is infested with crack houses. Crack houses are the center of the new cocaine trade. A crack house is a rented apartment or bungalow with a reinforced steel door. The dealer sits inside with his drugs, taking money and passing out doses of crack through a window. The door prevents ripoffs by the customers, and it slows down the cops (Morganthau, 1986).

Additionally, gangs have played a big role in the movement of drugs throughout the Los Angeles area. Judith Cummings (1984) observes that Los Angeles is perceived as having the most serious gang problem in the country. There has been violent gang activity in the past, but the role narcotics plays today is bigger than ever. The gang members are employed by the syndicate as armed messengers, salesmen, bodyguards, and hired killers. Cummings notes that after several years of declining gang violence, Los Angeles is experiencing a wave of killings which result from narcotics trafficking.

G. Money Launderers

One of the greatest requirements of the narcotics dealers is the capacity to conceal billions of dollars in cash from detection, convert it to some legitimate form and either reinvest in new narcotics operations or use for personal gain (Courtenay, 1985). Since the start of the 1980s, more individuals who deposit drug proceeds in American banks have been condemned by law enforcement officials. There is a special name for those who handle "dirty money" or drug money; they are viewed as "money washers or launderers" (Courtenay, 1985). Business Week Magazine (March 18, 1985) reported in 1985 that after years of successfully trying to curb drug dealing, bribery and tax evasion, law enforcement officials are going after money launderers with vengeance. The primary targets are the incredible \$480 billion in cash transactions generated by the trade, and the highly sophisticated businessmen who mastermind the shadow world of front corporations and bank secrecy havens.

The money laundering game is a very sophisticated process which is often practiced by those who are qualified

financially. An account of how money laundering schemes are carried out is listed in the following:

- 1) Drug dealer gives launderer \$250,000 in cash from street sales.
- 2) Launderer, working with accomplice, goes to several banks to purchase 50 money orders for \$5,000 each. The money orders are deposited in an account of a Panamanian "front" company, perhaps an import-export firm set up to handle such transactions. No report to the government is necessary because each cash transaction was under \$10,000.
- 3) The money is wired to a Panamanian bank account. Panamanian bank secrecy laws prevent U.S. investigators from finding out who owns the account. Profit from the drug sales is either held in the Panamanian bank or returned to a U.S. bank account controlled by the drug dealer, or perhaps another front company.
- 4) Some of the \$250,000 is transferred from the Panamanian bank to Colombia, where it is converted to pesos to buy the next shipment of cocaine.

When examining this remarkable process, one can understand how launderers establish undercover networks filled with persons responsible for maintaining money laundering schemes. The people who play a vital role in this process are called "smurfs." Mainly because they go from bank to bank exchanging cash for cashier's checks and money orders. The smurfs usually keep their transactions

under \$10,000 because a cash deposit above that amount must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service by a bank (Business Week, March 18, 1985).

Pico Iyer (1985) points out that a task force of U.S. Customs and Internal Revenue Service agents have been auditing (since 1980) all financial transactions larger than \$10,000. Iyer claims that traffickers still outfox federal officials. One way to defeat the audit is to hire part-time workers such as college students and grandmothers to drive around the country changing the cocaine producers' cash into checks worth slightly less than \$10,000.

Similarly, Carlton Sherwood (1984) maintains that in 1984, a joint task force of Drug Enforcement Administration and Internal Revenue Service agents charged six Florida bank officials with operating an international drug smuggling syndicate. Table 1 on the following page indicates several white-collar professionals who had some ties to the Washington, D.C. drug community. However, one can see that this sophisticated trafficker possesses connections that enable him to establish lucrative and successful drug organizations. Consequently, he is able to exist in American society because he is often perceived as

TABLE 1

CONVICTED WHITE-COLLAR DRUG TRAFFICKERS

<u>CRIMINAL</u>	<u>CRIME</u>	<u>SENTENCE</u>
Fred B. Black	Former Washington Lobbyist who conspired to launder more than \$1 million in cocaine proceeds through two dummy accounts at Riggs National Bank in Washington, D.C.	7 years
Robert Burns	A Miami lawyer convicted of selling cocaine wholesale to D.C. distributors.	7-15 years
John Tarantino	Assistant City Attorney in East Orange, New Jersey convicted of conspiracy to distribute cocaine as a part of a drug ring in Washington, D.C.	7-15 years
Herbert Suskind	Washington Lawyer convicted of participating in a heroin distribution ring.	15 years
William Hessler	Former Vice President of Riggs National Bank in Washington, D.C. convicted of being part of a cocaine ring that smuggled the drug from Colombia and sold it in many parts of the U.S.	5 years

William Bell	Former U.S. government auditor convicted of being a major cocaine and marijuana dealer around the Dupont Circle area of Washington, D.C. One of D.C.'s most exclusive neighborhoods.	5-15 years
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Source: Compiled from Washington Post articles written by Philip Smith-March 9, 1985, B 1, B 7. Lawrence Feinberg-August 8, 1985, C 5, and Lawrence Feinberg January 7, 1986, B 1.

the consummate professional and therefore overlooked as a participant in crime.

In essence, some money launderers are successful in avoiding criminal prosecution because many foreign countries maintain strict bank secrecy laws. For example, Switzerland, Cayman Islands and the Bahamas have been hosts to thousands of secret bank accounts, corporations, and trusts of unrevealed ownership. In 1984, however, the United States and Great Britain signed an agreement that gives American officials investigating drug cases information about secret bank accounts in the Cayman Islands, which are British colonies (Abadinsky, 1985).

Oftentimes, it is alleged that organized crime is linked to banks that participate in money laundering schemes. For example, it was revealed in 1985 that the Bank of Boston, the city's oldest and largest bank, helped launder money for the boss and underboss of the Partriarca Crime Family (Abadinsky, 1985). Also, the Provident Institution For Savings, America's oldest federally chartered bank admitted laundering money for Boston's Mafia leaders. The bank admitted that it failed to file IRS reports on 49 cash transactions totaling more than \$950,000 from January 1981 to February 1984. The bank agreed to pay

a \$100,000 fine (The Atlanta Journal, March 1, 1986). In addition, the U.S. Treasury seized \$75 million in illegal profits from 1980-1984. Twenty-one banks were penalized for failing to file government forms required for transactions of more than \$10,000 (Business Week, March 18, 1985).

H. Anti-Crime Activities Against Cocaine Traffickers

Agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the U.S. Customs Service have devised special programs which target drug traffickers (Webster, 1985). Since the late 1970s, federal officials have mainly concentrated their energies on cracking down on high level drug dealers. As a result, the 1980s have brought some success for officials concerning the capture of drug traffickers. Despite the success of their efforts, law enforcement officials must not lighten their grip on monitoring the activities of individuals who benefit financially from drugs.

In the 1980s, the DEA has been traveling to foreign countries with the intent of seizing illegal drugs before they reach the United States. Along with the FBI and other law enforcement officials, the DEA and the U.S. Customs

Service are fighting a tremendous battle with drug smugglers. The DEA and the FBI arrested 4,500 people and seized 12,500 pounds of nearly pure cocaine in 1982 worth \$3.5 billion. Also, \$100 million in cash, \$40 million worth of aircraft, boats, cars, and \$20 million in real estate was seized by the DEA and other federal agencies during that year (Anderson, 1983).

Pico Iyer (1985) reveals that in 1985, U.S. Customs officials seized a \$11.9 million 747 airplane belonging to Avianca, the Colombian airline in Miami, Florida. The plane was seized after officials discovered that it was carrying more than 1,000 kilos of coke, worth over \$760 million on the street. The southern Florida area of the United States seems to be a popular section of the country for drug traffickers to channel illegal drugs. Jeffrey Leen (1985) asserts that half of the cocaine entering the United States is funneled through Miami. In 1985, Vice President George Bush's South Florida Task Force accounted for 9,569 arrests since coming to South Florida in February of 1982. Leen maintains that federal agents had their best year in 1984, seizing more than 25 tons of cocaine in South Florida and the Caribbean--more than double the 1983 total.

In addition, USA Today (March 3, 1986) maintains that half the cocaine seized in 1985 in Florida contained

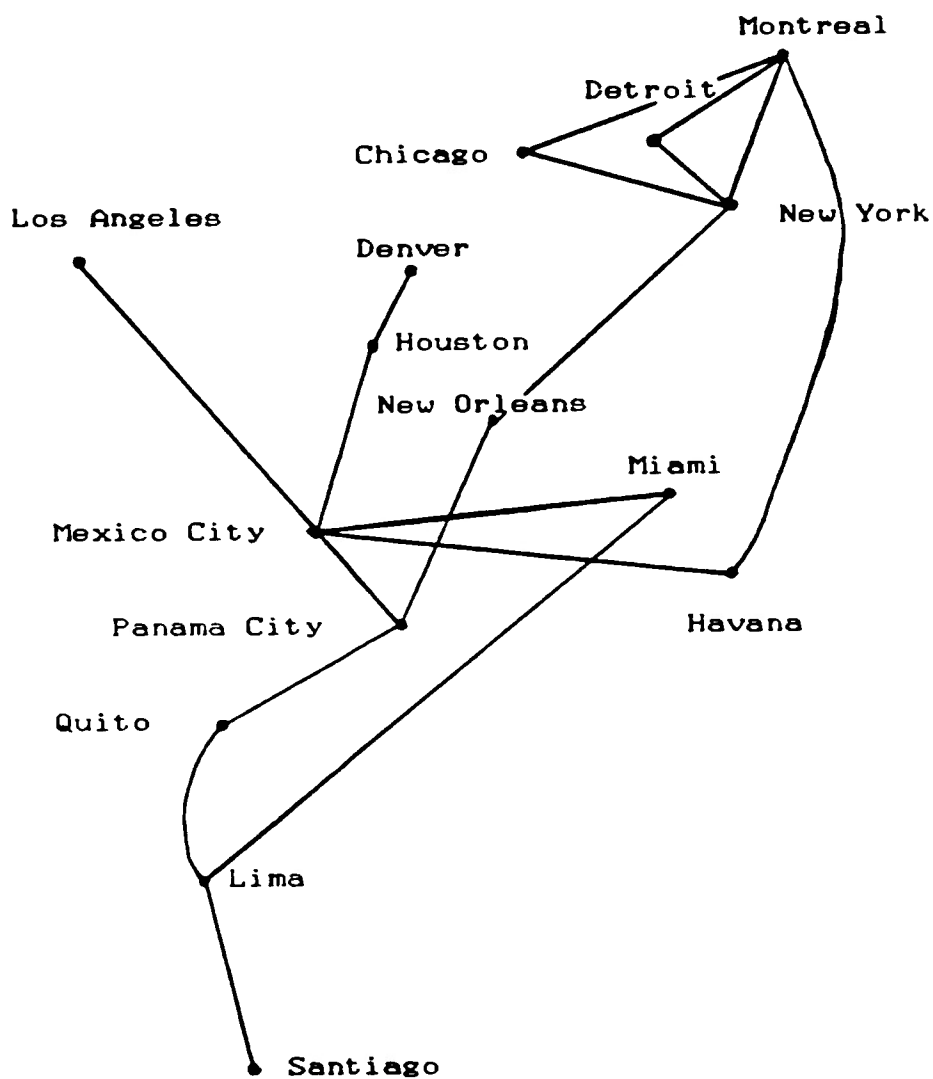
benzene, a carcinogen banned from consumer products because it causes leukemia. Drug traffickers began using benzene to make cocaine when controls were tightened on the sale of ether, once a key chemical in manufacturing cocaine.

Although Florida is a key dumping ground for cocaine by smugglers, other parts of the country are infested with the drug as well (see Figure 6). For example, federal agents arrested 27 members of a single family and nearly 1,500 pounds of cocaine worth \$20 billion in New York in 1985. The bust was the second largest drug seizure in United States history and succeeded in putting a 10-year old drug ring out of business (The Atlanta Journal, November 24, 1985).

It is going to take the cooperation of foreign governments, law enforcement officials, and American citizens to curb the illegal activities of drug traffickers. The affect that drugs such as cocaine have on Americans is frightening and devastating. Clearly, it will take a massive effort to completely eliminate drug trafficking, but unique approaches and policies must be attempted to tackle this problem. Bob Dart (1986) indicates the President's Commission on Organized Crime policy level decisions for 1986 in the following:

FIGURE 6

DISTRIBUTION ROUTES FOR COCAINE



Source: Denny Pace, *Organized Crime: Concepts and Control*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1975, Figure 10.2, p.153.

- 1) Assets of drug traffickers should be seized to pay the nation's anti-drug efforts.
- 2) The military Joint Chiefs of Staff should change their definitions of "national security" to encompass drug smugglers, thus enabling military forces to get more involved in the war on drugs.
- 3) The 11 states that have decriminalized marijuana should reverse those statutes.
- 4) The media and entertainment industries should review their portrayals of drug use and its consequences and insure their accuracy.
- 5) Private sector employers should consider requiring drug testing of job applicants and current employees.

I. Drug Education Programs

As a result of the large drug industry, a lot of youth have been exposed to illegal drugs. However, programs such as the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson's "Say No To Drugs Tour" has notified many youth across the country about the dangers of drugs (Vobejda, 1985). Jackson's tour (1985-1987) consisted of anti-drug rallies throughout the United States geared to discouraging youth from participating with drugs. It also encouraged those youth who were addicted to drugs to seek the help of drug counselors. Although Jackson's tour educated an abundance

of youth, it was not the only anti-drug program aimed at preventing drug abuse. A joint project of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Unified School District (Project DARE) has set up an anti-drug curriculum for elementary and junior high school children. The program is designed to equip these students with skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with drugs. The goal of the program is to teach kids how to say "no" to drugs (Dejong, 1986).

In 1985, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation launched the Sports Drug Awareness Program. This program has major sports figures of the United States carry anti-drug messages to youngsters. Successful athletes are very important role models among youth today, and they have been willing to contribute to this important effort (Webster, 1985). In essence, viable programs such as Project DARE, Sports Drug Awareness, and Jackson's anti-drug tour are desperately needed in a society where drugs are rampant in suburban and inner-city communities. Educating youth and other citizens about the dangers of drugs is a valuable tool in preventing the spread of drug abuse throughout America in the 1980s and 1990s.

CHAPTER 4

RESEARCH INTERVIEWS AND TESTIMONIES

For the purposes of this research, two research interviews were conducted with a DEA and FBI agent in order to gain first-hand knowledge about the distribution of cocaine in the United States. These two individuals were candid with their views about drug smugglers, and offered suggestions for solving the drug problem in urban areas (especially black communities). The personal testimonies of top administrators from the DEA (John C. Lawn), FBI (William Webster), and U.S. Customs (William von RAAB) are also provided for expert knowledge of drug trafficking. The directors discussed the roles of their respective agencies and offered educational and preventive techniques that must be used to combat the drug problem in America.

An interview with DEA agent Ernest Howard was conducted at the Atlanta Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration on July 12, 1984.

Michael T. Green: How long have you been a DEA agent?

Ernest Howard: I have been a DEA agent for ten years.

Q. What do your duties consist of as a supervisory agent?

- A. My duties include locating drug smugglers who distribute drugs throughout America. I command a team of agents who participate in undercover and surveillance operations. We are really concerned about the importation of drugs from countries. The DEA has established training seminars which are designed to help countries curb their drug trafficking.
- Q. What kind of criminals are you concerned with arresting?
- A. The DEA targets top violators. We seek them because we can often seize large amounts of money and drugs from these criminals. Our office was recently involved in arresting one of Atlanta's most famous drug smugglers. This individual owned 21 homes and apartments in Atlanta, and had a personal fortune of four million dollars.
- Q. What countries are main drug suppliers to the United States?
- A. Bolivia, Mexico, and Colombia in South America export large quantities of drugs to the United States. Colombia is known for its illustrious poppy fields--where the drugs morphine and heroin originate. Heroin is a big source of income for the Colombian economy, and they would lose millions of dollars if their government prohibited narcotic exportation. In other words, the Colombian economy would collapse if drugs were eradicated.
- Q. What role does organized crime play concerning the exportation of drugs to the United States?
- A. Organized Crime plays an important role in filtering drugs to the black community. These criminals make it possible for blacks to use drugs, such as marijuana, heroin, and cocaine. Italians are still considered the stereotypical organized criminal, but it is a misconception. Italians do not have a monopoly on organize crime because Colombians, Cubans, and blacks have developed organized drug rings in America as well.

Q. What can blacks do to prevent drugs from entering their neighborhoods?

A. I believe that the black community must become more involved in reporting drug dealers to law enforcement officials. The black community's cooperation and commitment could lead to the arrest of drug violators, and possibly remedy many drug related crimes.

Q. Do you enjoy the role of a DEA agent?

A. I could not have asked for a more exciting job. I receive great satisfaction being a DEA agent. I am pleased I joined the agency in 1973 because it sure beats working as a systems analyst for General Motors.

An interview with FBI agent Herman Scott was conducted at the Atlanta Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 9, 1984.

Q. Michael T. Green: What do your duties as supervisory agent entail?

A. Herman Scott: I command a group of investigators who are responsible for investigating intelligence operations across America. We conduct covert investigations and work in conjunction with the CIA when searching for spy suspects.

Q. What kind of criminals are you mainly concerned with capturing?

A. My investigators mainly target individuals who have committed federal crimes, such as extortionists, drug smugglers, and organized criminals. Many organized criminals are arrested for conspiracy charges. However, most of them are rarely prosecuted.

- Q. Why are many organized criminals rarely prosecuted?
- A. In many instances, the more money a defendant possesses, the less likely chance he has of being convicted of a crime in court. Sometimes court administrators, lawyers, and judges are bribed in court. I believe that many organized criminals are examples of people who penetrate the court system through bribery.
- Q. Are organized criminals the blame for the drug problems in the black community?
- A. Although organized crime filters illegal drugs into the black community, I believe blacks must also assume the blame for its drug problems. The black community demands illegal drugs such as marijuana and cocaine; therefore, drug dealers will continue to supply them with drugs.
- Q. What can be done to eliminate the drug problem in the black community?
- A. I feel that the black community could remedy many of its problems by restoring family and educational values. I feel that blacks should be structured toward college at an early age and instilled with important family values. If this is done, many individuals in the black community will choose education and employment over drug abuse.
- Q. What can be done to turn around the black community?
- A. I believe that a resurgence of family, social, and educational values are desperately needed to turn around the black community. During the segregation period in the United States, blacks were proud to be a part of the college atmosphere. Therefore, they worked extremely hard throughout school to attend college. They adhered to special values during that time. In essence, I feel that young blacks need to

inherit and develop some old values. As a result, they will be guided in the right direction and will not need drugs to escape from the problems of society.

FBI Director William Webster chronicles the role of his law enforcement agency:

"Drug trafficking is the most critical crime problem in the United States. This crime sows destruction in terms of human health and ruined lives. It produces the violence associated with the distribution of drugs. Also, it brings with it the enormous capacity to corrupt those charged with the enforcement of the law.

Today the FBI and DEA are conducting over 750 joint investigations. These are part of a total of over 2,000 FBI narcotic investigations in this country and abroad. Over 1,000 of the FBI's 8,800 special agents are working on drug cases. The FBI will continue to investigate drug trafficking as one of its very highest priorities. The United States can be successful only if the demand for drugs coming into and grown within this country is reduced. This is at least one-half of the overall drug problem. It is a problem of educating young people and fostering the parents, teachers, and the clergy. The desire for drugs must be reduced in order to slow shipments (Police Chief, October 1985)."

U. S. Customs Commissioner William von RAAB discusses the objective of his organization below:

"The U.S. Customs Service has often been called the nation's first line of defense against the drug smugglers. In fact, the Customs Service has been the first line of defense against all kinds of smuggling since it was founded in 1789. Years of experience have shown that whatever is illegal and in demand will be smuggled. In today's society, there is a big demand for narcotics. Smugglers have

been very opportunistic in turning this demand into big profits. Customs has created many innovative programs to cope with what has become the major international crime problem.

Customs inspectors now concentrate more on serious drug smuggling instead of low-risk, routine passenger and cargo processing. Customs officials have been especially adept at ferreting out money laundering schemes. They have broken new ground in this area, finding new ways to attack drug conspiracies. Tactical officers on land, sea, and air are setting new records in catching drug smugglers, who attempt to cross the borders of the United States. Customs is proud of its recent efforts to stop drug trafficking. It is equally proud of the partnership it is forging with state and local police agencies to fight the battle together (Police Chief, October 1985)."

DEA Director John C. Lawn discusses the role of his agency:

"The Drug Enforcement Administration enforces the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States, and brings to justice those who grow, manufacture, distribute and otherwise profit from illicit drugs made available in this country. Domestically, the DEA's role is to reduce the availability of illicit drugs in marketplaces. Also, DEA strives to disrupt the drug traffic through the arrest and prosecution of major violators and the removal of their assets.

DEA conducts training for other law enforcement personnel through its regional training programs and its Drug Enforcement Officers Academy. In 1984, over 6,000 state and local police received training about drug trafficking. The ultimate solution to the drug abuse problem lies not in reducing supply, but in reducing demand for drugs. The national strategy correctly places a strong emphasis on prevention, education, and treatment/research. DEA looks forward to the time when upon the insistence

of the American people, drug abuse will have been curtailed to the point where it is no longer a threat to this nation (Police Chief, October 1985). "

These interviews, testimonies, and expert statements by the law enforcement officials were used to support and substantiate the earlier analyses on cocaine trafficking in this research. Clearly, their insight has provided a working blueprint for eliminating illegal drugs in America. Also, most of these analyses point out that the "demand" for drugs such as cocaine must be curtailed before law enforcement authorities begin to seriously thwart drug trafficking. Therefore, these officials mainly emphasize that America is responsible for its drug problem, and only its citizens can remove the need for illegal drugs.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the findings and implications of the study.

The writer provides a diagnostic account of how cocaine is imported to the United States and distributed to urban communities. The thesis traces the origin of cocaine in foreign countries and shows how it is transferred into a deadly product. Further, it highlights the trail of cocaine to the United States. Throughout the study, information was provided about the makeup of cocaine organizations, and how they benefit financially from drugs. The writer emphasized the role of cocaine organizations and the goals and objectives of drug rings in the inner city. Also, some of the major players in the cocaine business such as money launderers were included to show their part in the cocaine trade in the 1980s.

The literature presents a vivid step-by-step account of cocaine manufacture, exportation, and distribution by including concrete examples and illustrations. Therefore, all Americans must become involved in stamping down the drug trafficking process. In addition, the American

government should increase funding for federal and local enforcement agencies that concentrate on drug traffickers. If more money is directed in this fashion, there would be more DEA, FBI, and Customs officials to patrol and prevent traffickers from entering U.S. borders. Furthermore, stiffer sentences should be given to individuals who purchase, distribute and use illegal drugs. As a result of tougher penalties, more people would be prosecuted for drug dealing.

Also, there must be increased community involvement in reporting drug traffickers to police agencies. Increased community participation could lead to the capture of more top level drug smugglers. Finally, there should be a national drug awareness/prevention program that visits schools, churches, businesses, and neighborhoods throughout the United States. This program would educate adults and youths about the dangers of drugs, and possibly deter drug abuse in suburban and inner-city communities in the future.

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